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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/943,892	08/29/2001	Eric D. Anderson	500247.03	2384

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EXAMINER

ENGLAND, DAVID E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2003

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/943,892

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON, ERIC D.

Examiner

David E. England

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 30-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 30-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 30 – 36 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 30, 34, 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dillon (6067561) in view of Bapat et al. (6236996) (hereinafter Bapat).

3. Referencing claim 30, Dillon teaches a computer-implemented method for one of a plurality of designated recipients of an Email communication to receive the Email communication from a server that stores a single copy of the Email communication, the method comprising:

4. receiving an Email communication notification from the server that references the single copy of the Email communication, the Email communication notification distinct from the Email communication, (e.g. col. 1, line 25 – col. 2, line 38 & col. 3, line 12 – 65);

5. requesting from the server the referenced Email communication, (e.g. col. 1, line 25 – col. 2, line 38 & col. 3, line 12 – 65), but does not specifically teach to receiving from the server a copy of the requested Email communication. Bapat teaches to receiving from the server a copy

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of the requested Email communication, (e.g. col. 14, lines 34 – 64). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Bapat with Dillon because it would be more convenient for a user to have a local copy of an Email ^{in case} ~~so in case~~ the user is off line and wants to modify the local copy of the Email, the user could with out modifying the original Email that could be used as an archived document for reference if desired.

6. As per claim 34, Dillon teaches the Email communication received from the server is encrypted using a public encryption key for the one of the plurality of designated recipients, and including retrieving a private encryption key for the one of the plurality of designated recipients to decrypt the Email communication, (e.g. col. 9, line 60 – col. 10, line 15).

7. As per claim 35, Dillon teaches wherein the method is performed by a receiving computer lacking sufficient permanent storage to store the Email communication, (e.g. col. 1, line 25 – col. 2, line 38 & col. 3, line 12 – 65).

8. Claims 31, 33 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dillon (6067561) in view of Bapat (6236996) in further view of Arnold (6275848).

9. As per claim 33, Dillon does not specifically teach storing the Email communication locally such that the local stored Email communication is preserved even when the server deletes the single stored copy.

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10. Official Notice is taken that it was a common practice to storing the Email communication locally such that the local stored Email communication is preserved even when the server deletes the single stored copy at the time the instant invention was made.

11. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the computer art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Dillon because of similar reasons stated above. Furthermore, if the user saves the Email locally on one computer and disconnects from the network and then logs in on a different computer and deletes the Email on the server there is no way for the Email to be deleted on the first computer. Also if the user were to save the Email on a floppy disk and then delete the Email form the server, the server cannot delete the Email on the floppy disk, especially if the floppy disk is removed.

12. Referencing claim 31, Dillon and Bapat do not specifically teach when access to the Email communication is no longer desired, indicating to the server to delete the Email communication, so that the server deletes the single stored copy of the Email communication after receiving indications from all recipients to delete the Email communication. Arnold teaches when access to the Email communication is no longer desired, indicating to the server to delete the Email communication, so that the server deletes the single stored copy of the Email communication after receiving indications from all recipients to delete the Email communication, (e.g. col. 4, line 25 – col. 5, line 25). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Arnold with the combine system of Dillon and Bapat because of similar reasons stated above.

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13. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dillon (6067561) in view of Bapat (6236996) in further view of Arnold (6275848) in further view of Devine et al. (6385644) (hereinafter Devine).

14. As per claim 32, Dillon, Bapat and Arnold do not specifically teach after the receiving of the Email communication notification, storing the Email communication notification locally;

15. after the indicating to the server to delete the Email communication, deleting the stored Email communication notification even if all recipients have not indicated to delete the Email communication. Devine teaches after the receiving of the Email communication notification, storing the Email communication notification locally, (e.g. col. 12, lines 40 – 55);

16. after the indicating to the server to delete the Email communication, deleting the stored Email communication notification even if all recipients have not indicated to delete the Email communication, (e.g. col. 12, lines 40 – 55). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Devine with the combine system of Dillon, Bapat and Arnold because of similar reasons stated above and further, if a user has a personal records of Email communication notifications it could prevent loss of information if the server were to break down and/or crash, (i.e. redundancy).

17. Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dillon (6067561) in view of Bapat (6236996) in further view of Homan et al. (6317485).

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18. Referencing claim 36, Dillon and Bapat do not specifically teach wherein contents of the received Email communication notification are based on preferences for the one of the plurality of designated recipients, the preferences previously supplied to the server. Homan teaches wherein contents of the received Email communication notification are based on preferences for the one of the plurality of designated recipients, the preferences previously supplied to the server, (e.g. col. 6, lines 28 – 49 & col. 7, lines 1 – 44). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Homan with the combine system of Dillon and Bapat because of similar reasons stated above and further it would be more efficient for a system to utilize a type of preference setting to classify or possibly utilize different types of Email communication notifications. This will diversify the way a user may receive notifications about incoming Email.

Conclusion

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

20. a. Bosco U.S. Patent No. 6335963 discloses System and method for providing notification of a received electronic mail message.

21. b. Ouchi U.S. Patent No. 5978836 discloses Workflow systems and methods.

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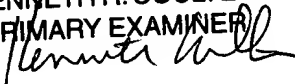
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. England whose telephone number is 703-305-5333.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, 7:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on 703-308-5221. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are none for regular communications and none for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is none.

David E. England
Examiner
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KENNETH R. COULTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER


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August 8, 2003